

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for compressing at least a portion of a patient's skeleton, joints and/or spine during imaging, the apparatus comprising:

a first base member;

a pair of flexible shoulder straps connected to the first base member and adapted to bear against the shoulders of the patient;

a resilient member mounted to the first base member, the resilient member being resiliently compressible or resiliently stretchable; and

a foot plate coupled with the resilient member such that the foot plate can be selectively moved relative to the first base member to resiliently compress or resiliently stretch the resilient member, the foot plate being adapted to receive the feet of the patient when the flexible shoulder straps bear against the shoulders of the patient.

22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, further comprising a chest strap extending between the pair of flexible shoulder straps.

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, further comprising a second base member connected to the first base member, the shoulder straps being connected to the second base member while the foot plate is disposed on the first base member.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 23, wherein the first base member is connected to the second base member by at least one flexible strap.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 23, wherein the first base member and the second base member each comprise a substantially flat panel.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein the pair of flexible shoulder straps can be selectively positioned on the first base member to selectively increase or decrease the length of the straps.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein the pair of flexible shoulder straps can be selectively positioned on the first base member to selectively increase or decrease the distance between the pair of shoulder straps.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein the first base member comprises a first panel and a second panel connected to the first panel, the shoulder straps being connected to the second panel while the foot plate is disposed on the first panel.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein the resilient member comprises an elastic medium.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 29, wherein the elastic medium comprises shock cord, surgical tubing, or bungee cord.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, wherein the resilient member comprises a force resistant medium.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 31, wherein the force resistant medium comprises a coil spring or a viscoelastic rod.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, further comprising an anchor member mounted to the base, the resilient member extending between the foot plate and the anchor member.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 33, wherein the anchor member is mounted to the base member so that the anchor member can be selectively moved along the length of the base member.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 33, wherein the anchor member is slidably coupled to the base member.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 33, further comprising a pressure transfer member connected to the foot plate and to an end of the resilient member.

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 36, wherein the anchor member comprises a cylinder, at least a portion of the resilient member and at least a portion of the pressure transfer member being disposed in the cylinder.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 36, wherein the pressure transfer member comprises pressure markings to indicate the level of pressure applied to the foot plate.

39. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, further comprising a leg immobilizer connected to the base member.

40. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as recited in claim 21, further comprising a foot immobilizer connected to the foot plate.

41-51. (Cancelled)